

come down? It is supposed to arrive today. Do you have any information as to how quickly we would attempt to consider and move the supplemental appropriation bill?

□ 1200

Mr. BOEHNER. Clearly, sometime in the coming weeks, but I think the Appropriations Committee will have their hands full looking at the request, going through all of the items in the request. I think we would like to have it through the House before the Easter recess, but, again, they have got an awful lot of work to do in the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for those comments.

I would say, Mr. Leader, not as a question but as an observation, as you know, there has been a great deal of concern on both sides of the aisle with reference to the PATRIOT Act, the provisions in the PATRIOT Act and to the extension of the PATRIOT Act. Obviously, the majority of the PATRIOT Act is in permanent law, but there are some portions that needed to be reauthorized.

I do not ask you a question because I know that this is still up in the air, but we are hopeful that as soon as the majority may have a better view of the scheduling of the PATRIOT Act, the sooner you could inform us of that would be better.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOEHNER. As the gentleman knows, the Senate has taken up the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. When the Senate completes their work it will come here, and I think those of us in the House never want to predict the speed at which the Senate may or may not move this bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time. I will tell the majority leader that I will not ask you the question trying to predict the actions of the other House in the future. I thank him for his comments, and again congratulate the leader on his election.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 345

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 16, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28,

2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, February 17, 2006, through Tuesday, February 21, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 27, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 345, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING THE HONORABLE SILVIO BERLUSCONI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, March 1, 2006, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting the Honorable Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business

in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY, HON. FRANK R. WOLF, AND HON. TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2006

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 16, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF, and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 28, 2006.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

NEW ORLEANS' TULANE HOSPITAL REOPENS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, held a field hearing down in the City of New Orleans during the January break. For me, it was my second trip to that storm-ravaged area; and, once again, you just cannot help but be overwhelmed by the size and the scope of the destruction that has happened down on our gulf coast area.

But Mr. Speaker, although we were there primarily to study the health care issues going on, and there were some significant problems down there, we saw the facility at LSU, Charity Hospital, one of the venerable old institutions in this country's history for training of medical doctors, completely in tatters. But there was not all bad news. There was some good news. Right across the street at Tulane University Medical Center, HCA, the Hospital Corporation of America, had that facility almost up and ready to go.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that yesterday they held the ribbon-cutting for New Orleans Tulane Hospital as it reopened. In fact, Mr. Speaker, according to a news report, more than 100 nurses and doctors, in lab coats and scrubs, performed the wave in celebration, prompting Mayor Ray Nagin to ask them what was in their

coffee. "I don't know what you're taking at Tulane, but I want some of that," he said.

Well, Mr. Mayor, it is old-fashioned American ingenuity and entrepreneurship. It works every time it is tried. I hope we will see more of that down in New Orleans.

ADMINISTRATION MISSING IN ACTION

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, like so many Members, I attended the funeral celebration of Coretta Scott King. Her words: Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.

And, of course, President Carter was profound when he talked about the face of racism; and that face is the face of the Katrina victims. As we take a look at the devastation, man-made devastation that this administration, the Bush administration have, as the report says, it is no question they did not do a good job in the past. But we are not talking about the past. We are talking about the present. We are talking about 6 months later, here and now, and the Bush administration is missing in action.

But the sad thing is that the leadership in this House, the leadership in the other body is also missing in action. We have failed the people of the United States in the People's House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OUR NEW 51ST STATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. NORWOOD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there was a very subtle illegal guestworker plan stuck in the budget the administration just submitted to Congress. That budget calls for the United States to allow over one million new illegal immigrants to infiltrate our borders during 2007.

As a matter of fact, last year's budget is allowing one million illegal aliens to enter this year as well. That is how many immigrants enter our country illegally each year under our current enforcement plans.

We know it will happen because it happens every year under current enforcement policy; and we are going

right ahead with the same old plan, knowing in advance that it will be a near total failure.

We continue talking about how we are adding 1,500 new border agents in 2007. That won't be in the field until 2009, letting another two million illegal aliens to walk across our border.

We talk about how we are adding technology and fencing, but that won't be ready until 2010, allowing another million illegals in our country.

Right now, with our current budget and reform plans, we are, by default, agreeing to allow an additional four million illegal aliens into our country. That is equivalent to the population of South Carolina or Oregon.

Think about that. We are being asked to add a 51st state populated entirely by low-income illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot find an excuse for this. We know right now how to bring this flood of illegal immigration to a virtual halt, and I think within the next 2 weeks. We need somewhere between 36 and 48,000 troops immediately deployed to the southern border.

Now, the Minuteman Project in April showed that with between 18 and 24 additional enforcement personnel per mile, we can effectively secure our border for the first time. And it was not just the Minuteman Project that revealed these statistics. The U.S. Border Patrol conducted similar demonstration projects in 1993. Operation Blockade in El Paso and Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego produced the identical same results.

We have a good idea on how much a deployment like this would cost. \$2.5 billion a year. But, you know what? That is less than 4 percent of the minimum \$70 billion a year we are currently spending covering the health care, education and the different costs for illegal immigrants.

We already know how long it would take to get these troops on line and end this nightmare. One week. That is how long it took NORTHCOM to place 70,000 National Guard and regular Army troops on the Gulf Coast in response to Katrina, and we are still railing about how that took too long. One week.

If the burden of the National Guard is too heavy, we can ask our governors to loan the Nation's 15,000 State defense forces to help. We can call up the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol.

We have laws in place, thanks to changes we made in the 108th Congress. Title 32, Section 9, U.S. Code now allows our governors to call out their National Guard for homeland security missions such as this at 100 percent Federal expense.

□ 1215

Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona has supposedly made such a call

on the Department of Defense. Her State legislature voted earlier this week to force her to follow up on that request.

Mr. Speaker, we need every Member of the House to urge their Governor to deploy all necessary forces to combat this invasion. We need the President to order the Department of Defense to fund this mission at 100 percent, and we need new legislation forcing the issue if action is not forthcoming. We can solve this problem if only Congress has the will.

THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my 1-minute and I want to repeat, because so many Members and people from all over the country went to the great celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King, her words: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and you win it in every generation."

And clearly we have a failure in this generation. If you would take a look, as President Carter said, at the faces of the Katrina victims: the faces of the poor, old, black and white, poor, infrastructure not in place. Thousands of people died because of the inefficient government. The report that was released, "A Failure of Initiative," was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, which criticized the poor preparation for the response to Hurricane Katrina. We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to mass destruction in the gulf region, particularly in New Orleans. The loss of lives, the loss of homes. But those were just a few problems which were revealed. But the sad fact is that those conditions exist today. Six months later those conditions still exist. The question I ask now is whether the Bush administration is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man made or natural disaster.

There is no question that the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina. The sad thing is, and I want to repeat, that it continues to fail the victims of the storm today. I am calling on the people's House. The Congressional Black Caucus leadership has put together a comprehensive bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that would lead to the recovery of the gulf coast region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation, some of the points made in the committee's report and one that we made today in our press conference.

This devastation stands today, 6 months later. The region of New Orleans looks like a hurricane disaster,